

W. R. Randall Garden House
7 Reynolds Avenue
Cortland
Cortland County
New York

HABS No. NY-5596

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. NY-5596

W. R. RANDALL GARDEN HOUSE

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Location: 7 Reynolds Avenue, Cortland, Cortland County, New York.

Present Owner: Mrs. Jere Wickwire

Present Occupant: Mrs. Jere Wickwire

Present Use: Summer house.

Brief Statement of Significance: An elegant Greek Revival summer house, the center of Cortland social life for many years.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners:
1828 - Built by W. R. Randall, foremost merchant in Cortland in the garden of his house at 76 Main Street, Cortland. Purchased by the Huntington family in Utica through attorney Paul Kelly of Cortland who was settling the estate for the Randall heirs.
1935 - Purchased and moved by Mr. and Mrs. Jere Wickwire to its present location.
2. Date of erection: 1828.
3. Architect: No information--probably from New York.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None available.
5. Builder, supplies, etc.: Unknown.
6. Alterations and additions: Former ceiling was square. Mr. Wickwire made the present cove ceiling and added gilded wood eagle at peak of roof. The old square tiles for floor purchased from Ipswich, Massachusetts.

Fountain made from stone pillar and giant South Seas clam shell obtained from Museum of Natural History, Boston (weight 255 pounds).

- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:
Mrs. Randall presided at teas in the summer house and for

many years these were an important part of the social life in this small town.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old Views: Pictures in Cortland County Historical Society Museum. Picture Post Card collection of Porter Bennet, 14 William Street, Cortland, made in 1905.

Set of five magnificent 11" x 14" photographs made by Tom Leonard of New York in 1946, collection of Mrs. Wickwire.

2. Bibliography:

"The Cherry Valley House, 1810". House and Garden, August, 1940, page 21. Includes pictures of the Randall Garden House.

Prepared by

Porter K. and Peter C. Bennett
Cortland, New York
August 17, 1965

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: An unusually elegant Greek Revival summer or garden house.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 15' x 15' x 15'; one story, three bays.
2. Foundations: Now stone; formerly stood on wood foundations 24" higher with lattice work around base.
3. Wall construction: Wood painted white.
4. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One door with louvered panels 34" x 87½" in center of each of the four sides; identical false doors on either side; door frames of narrow reeded pilaster strips with semi-circular

arch containing louvered fan-light; archivolt decorated with carved leaf and grape design.

- b. Windows: No other openings except louvered panels in false doors.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low peaked roof with split shingles; formerly tin roof.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Fluted pilasters with carved wood acanthus leaves in cornice supporting plain entablature with leaf-motif in tri-glyph over pilasters.

C. Description of the Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: 15' x 15'--one floor, one room.
- 2. Flooring: Red square tiles.
- 3. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 4. Lighting: Discreet electric lighting back of conch shells.
- 5. Heating: None.

D. Site and Surroundings:

- 1. Orientation and general setting: Front door faces northerly. Set in large lawn and flower garden. The main house, "Home House," was built in 1810 and moved to this site.
- 2. Landscaping and walks, enclosures: Flower bordered wide flag walk running from house to front door of summer house.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation of structures in the Southern Tier of New York State, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Cortland County Historical Society and the Valley Development Foundation, Inc.

The project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The historical and architectural material was prepared by Porter K. and Peter C. Bennett in

August, 1965. Photographs were taken by Jack E. Boucher, April, 1966.
The project was edited for deposit in the Library of Congress by
Constance Werner Ramirez, November, 1974.